

DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL

The California Highway Patrol is a law enforcement and traffic safety agency reporting to Business, Transportation and Housing Agency Secretary Maria Contreras-Sweet and Governor Gray Davis.



CONTACT: OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS
(916) 657-7202
(916) 657-8639 - FAX

2003

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

03-09

CHP SPRING GRADUATION CLASS SENDS THREE TO MIDDLE EAST

(WEST SACRAMENTO) – The California Highway Patrol today graduated 140 cadets from its six-month training program for new officers. Three of the graduates won't be able to immediately accept their new assignments. All three have been called to active military duty to serve in the Middle East.

Cadet Andrew Beasley, 25, Rocklin, will depart the day after graduation for Ft. Lewis, Washington to be deployed as a member of the 270th MP Company of the Army National Guard. He had been scheduled to join the CHP's Hayward office.

Cadet Thomas Lipsey, 28, Napa, will also be activated the day after graduation at Travis Air Force Base in Fairfield, California. He will be part of the 312th Airlift Squadron of the U.S. Air Force. He had been assigned to the CHP's Napa office.

Cadet Jonathan Wood, 29, Wildomar, will report to the CHP Riverside office for about ten days before shipping out to Camp Pendleton, California as a member of the U.S. Marine Corps Individual Ready Reserve.

"These fine young men now have the best training in the world to do their jobs. The instruction they've received from the military and the CHP are unmatched in the world," commented CHP Commissioner D.O. "Spike" Helmick.

Commissioner Helmick notes that the other 137 graduates of this class will assume some of the burden of homeland security in addition to the traditional CHP traffic safety duties. The Spring, 2003

class is among the largest CHP classes due in part to the added positions required to fulfill its expanded homeland security responsibilities. The cadets join the CHP's force of approximately 7,000 uniformed personnel. They will be deployed throughout California to begin their CHP careers.

“What people feel down deep about Highway Patrol officers is trust. They trust us to do our job, and they trust us to protect them when they need protection,” said the commencement speaker former CHP Assistant Commissioner Ken Anderson. His own nephew was a member of the class.

For the first time in CHP history, identical twin brothers are graduating together. Daniel and David Dotson, 22, both of Bakersfield are to be assigned to Altadena and Mojave respectively. “It took most of the staff a few weeks before they could really tell the Dotson twins apart. They have the same walk, same voices, same mannerisms. Academically they were only separated by four points,” explained Academy Commander Captain Warren Stanley.

All 140 new CHP officers received their badges during graduation ceremonies at the CHP Academy in West Sacramento. Unlike many law enforcement agencies, the badge number stays with the individual for life and is never reissued to another officer. Several hundred family members and friends of the cadets attended the ceremonies.

The CHP academy plans to graduate another 400 cadets this year.

#

Flex your power! Do ALL YOU CAN TO CONSERVE